

INSIDE...

R.F. MACKENZIE ON KIDS RIGHTS MAY-

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DAY BARLINNIE ELECTIONS SHIP SABOTAGE

## HOUSING ACTION

HOPE FOR HOMELESS? PENILEE SCANDAL

Since April 1st the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act has given the homeless a theoretical right to a home.

Of course, there are no extra houses being built and no more money to build more (profit first). So you might be inclined to call the act a con.

A decent home, in a decent environment, is a right we will have to fight for with more than legal paper. By knowing the Act, we can use it to throw their hypocrisy back in their faces.

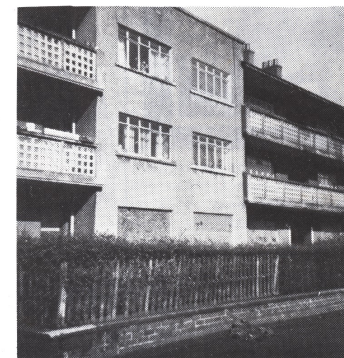
Homelessness By Section 1 of the Act a person is homeless if he/she, together with others who would normally live with him/her, has no accommodation which they are entitled to occupy or if there is accommodation which they cannot secure entry to, or there is a risk of violence in occupying it (eg: battered women.)

A person is 'threatened' with homelessness if they are likely to become homeless within 28 days, the normal time allowed on an eviction order from the courts.

Who is in 'Priority need?' Section 2 of the Act defines certain priority groups. Homeless persons have a priority need for accommodation if they:

- have independent children living with them or who might reasonably be expected to do so.
- are homeless as a result of an emergency or disaster.

CONTINUED PAGE NINE



a 'tenement' in PENILEE

A group of tenants in Gledloch Rd., in the Penilee estate have been exposed to the threat of eviction because of manipulation by the Housing Department at Clive House.

This bureaucratic landmark's image will be further tarnished by the disclosure that they conveniently "lost" minutes of a meeting with the tenants in December, 1974.

Their scheme, wracked with condensation & other defects was constructed for Italian P.O.W.s in W.W. II & later converted for short-term use for workers at Rolls-Royce & other Hillington Estate factories.

TENANTS TELL THEIR OWN STORY— PAGE THREE

As with all visits of 'Royals' & other Authority figures, a facade at a not inconsiderable expense was erected for Prince Charlie Boy's recent visit to Dumbarton, Blackhill & Barmulloch.

At Barmulloch, walls were painted & cleansed( of IRA slogans ) in the vicinity of 'All Saints' secondary school. The main object of the visit, a Fishing club (tied in with Prince Charming's jubilee fund - for suckers!) was hastily revived so that a fabricated appearance could be consumed by the public relations outfit for authorities - the press & T.V..

I KNOW PHILIP WANTS TO CUT OFF THE SCROUNGERS - BUT I DIDN'T THINK HE MEANT ME



As Gay News lost their appeal against their conviction for blasphemy another blasphemy trial was just beginning.

Two Sicilian anarchists, Franco Leggio and Alfredo Bonanno are charged with publishing an essay

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## GG FARES RISE AGAIN

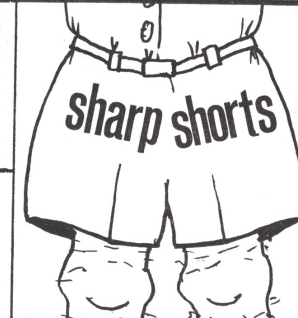
Fares rises from 26 to 28p & 18 to 20p have been engineered by the GGPT, taking effect from April 2nd

The Public Hearing on the 22nd of March proved to be a farce as tenants groups from Drumchapel & other schemes on the city's limits put forward reasoned arguments for a break on the yearly fare rises and an improvement in frequency of services only to have their criticisms side-tracked by GGPT 'experts'

So, what is the alternative ?

Basically, the GPP advocates the response of working people in Italy & to a lesser extent elsewhere who practice 'Self-reduction'. This doesn't mean that rou shrink in size(!) but decide yourself what fare to pay. In practice this is likely to mean avoiding paying the top fare for long journeys or paying the bottom fare for middle-distance journeys.

Also, lots of people aren't paying at all. We say - CUT THE BUREAUCRACY NOT THE SERVICES, REDUCE FARES NOW !



called The God Plague and Religion Epidemic. The essay had been published previously in 1883 and more recently in a highly priced collection of anarchist classics. At the equivalent of £12 the authorities obviously felt they had nothing to fear but Leggio and Bonanno reprinted the article as a cheap pamphlet. They now stand accused of 'vilifying the Catholic religion, the deity or the priesthood.'

GPP readers may be interested in local publications of Bonanno's essays: ANARCHISM & THE NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE; CRITIQUE OF SYNDICALIST METHODS, including trade unionism & an essay in WORKERS AUTONOMY, published May '78. From BRATACH DUBH, c/o 83 Langside Tce., Port Glasgow, who have also published ANGRY BRIGADE DOCUMENTS, each pamphlet 30p each + postage.

ELECTION RESULT: successful candidate in Seine-Maritime, French Elections - for the COMMUNIST PARTY was a certain I. Bourgeois - WOW !

## poet's corner

"Wher hiv aw rhe 'Tossin Schools' gon  
"Pitch an Toss"  
An "Moshie" tae?  
When Ah wis a wee smaw lad,  
Ah wid go oan a Sunday  
Wi Ma Dahd.  
Doon tae Glesca Green,  
Tae rha biggest 'Tossin School'  
Ye ever did see.  
Ye'd get Fifty, Sixty,  
A Hunner ur mair  
Aw tryin tae 'Even up Rha Score'

Bit ye cannae play 'Moshie' in CUMBERNAULD  
Cos ye cannae maik 'Moshie Holes IN CONCRETE

Ye ask mi wher aw rha Tossin Schools hiv gon?  
Well AH'll tell ye.  
Rher aw deid.  
Rhey died wen 'RHEH' demolished AW RHASTREETS.

Wher hiv aw rhe 'Tossin Schools' Gon?

Rhey're aw BURIET  
Under rhe GLESCA MOTIRWAE  
Cos rhe folks rhat ran rhem,  
WUR AW MOVED AWAY.

WILLIAM S. NISBET

## BUILT-IN WASTE

At Langside College the fiasco of the Nursery nurses continues. At present it's estimated that 300 graduates of the course at the College have been unable to find employment in nursery schools & day-nurseries. The present reduced intake of 50 school-leavers are likely to be the same position a year from now.

Recently 'Current Account' focussed on the need to inject a more 'educational' note to the day-nurseries. Fair enough, but the crux of the whole issue lies in the lap of the Government. As reported in GPP 2(Oct.'77), the situation is due to the regulation of the economy through cutting back on a 'real' growth in State expenditure, such as schools & nurseries.

As the corresponding increase in factory nursery provision shows, in society at the moment nursery provision is intimately linked to industrial demand for cheap female factory fodder. The contradictions of specialised training in child-care having no outlet in related work shows up yet again the bankruptcy of a system geared to profits & bureaucratic power.



At the time of going to press a temporary 'stay of execution' has delayed the eviction notices beyond the March 28th date. 3 families in particular are threatened, in that their tenancy isn't 'sufficient' & are threatening to barricade themselves in & resist eviction with the aid of other members of the PENILEE ACTION COMMITTEE who tell their story below:

# FAMILIES AT WAR

That is the name we have been endowed with because we have united to fight for justice which should have been our right, & not to submit to a power which is fast becoming a dictatorship - namely the Glasgow District Housing Department. WHY is such disruption allowed to go on? Our experience could have caused serious family break-up... & the danger of antagonism between neighbour and other families, through unfair allocation of houses & just as important the subtle mis-quotes and wrong inflection on a word which can distort the truth.

There is a quote "Rules are for fools and the Guidance of the Wise", and it seems that the Housing Department are treating the Flat tenants as a pack of fools. The "Rule" changes not only from day to day but from hour to hour & yet we are told that the only people who can make the rules are the Council and it takes a month. We have experienced that after all our details have been taken, they can come up with a "rule" whereby we don't qualify. When another person goes with this particular qualification - they find another excuse for refusal. The "rules" on tenancy to qualify for a modernised house in PENILEE can change from 22, 25, 10 & 15 years all within a week! Each person gets told a different story.

Under the modernisation, the terrace or 4-in-a-block houses are in the last stages of completion. They started work on them in 1971. Now they are about to start the modernisation of the flats but for some reason we are now called tenement dwellers which apparently comes under a different ruling!

We are in the "pilot" scheme and according to the schedule already a whole year behind, and a penalty is due to the contractor if the block is not emptied when they need to commence their work. We cannot get assurance that the block will withstand the intensive work that has to be carried out. Only a shell will be left & it is practically a rebuilding job.

We may be out of our houses anything from 18 months to 2 years, or it may be that the whole block will have to

be demolished due to the streams & swampy ground on which it has been built. No one has seen any plans or drawings of the modernised flats yet, the work is supposed to begin presently. Before the "pilot" scheme for the terrace houses started detailed information was available. Because of the duration of our modernisation we differ from other schemes in the city. It was supposed to take 3/4 years and it has taken 4 1/2 years so far & the flats



MODERNISED 'TERRACE'

haven't even been started & they say it will take at least another 2 years. Instead of a little consideration the flat dwellers are getting terrible treatment. We have put up with all the inconvenience & the noise of all the work going on around us, watching property & re-construction while vandals rampaged, pilfering, destroying & setting fire to the houses. Bad roads & pavements damaged through heavy machinery caused sprained & broken limbs. SUFFERING THIS FOR 5 YEARS, IS IT TO BE WONDERED THAT WE GO TO "WAR" WHEN THE PROMISES MADE TO US ARE NOT HONOURED.

Can you understand the irony we feel when we are told that the "minutes" of the all important meeting outlining the details of the modernisation "Got lost". These minutes must state that it was said that PENILEE HOUSES WERE FOR THE PEOPLE OF PENILEE. Can a Council "lose" Minutes, without trace? Mr. Bruce Millan, our M.P., seems to be of the opinion that it might have been said that after the people of Penilee were housed satisfactorily then outsiders would be considered. The truth is that more people from outside are coming in to Penilee, than the people who live in the scheme, who don't need to have the qualifications we the "pilot" scheme must have. The Housing Department seem determined that the flat tenants must come back to the flats but because of recent pressure & publicity, they have

opened a transfer list to re-house tenants of the other flats, who have a tenancy of 34 years & working downwards either in Penilee or a suitable house elsewhere.

Bearing in mind there is no stated time for the completion of the work or whether the block can withstand the modernisation, is it any wonder that people should refuse Offers of too small or would incur an added cost of over £10 a week in travelling. Some people who are employed in Penilee & Hillington Estate with early starts would have to give up their jobs. Children would have to travel or cross busy main roads to get to school.

The refusals were justified but regardless, after 2 refusals you can get an Eviction notice & taken to Court where a Sheriff is not interested in WHY you refuse, only that the Eviction notice was served & that your name & dates thereon are correct otherwise you leave with a decree against you. Is this British justice? Is there no appeal against a Notice? Many of us learned that the Housing Department had us down for more refusals than we had offers!

We get classed as tenement dwellers & different rules are looming up day by day. We are paying more to heat our houses in their present state than the people in the modernised houses & there is little difference in rent & rates.

People amongst us with the low tenancies, who seem sure to be evicted because they have only 6/7/8 years tenancy, are angered at being placed in a different category from terrace house occupants with a few years tenancy who are offered 8 or 9 terraced houses from which to choose from. Owing to the word Decant - we do not come under any compensation other than the paying of the removals, if we are fortunate enough to be 'Decanted' & not transferred.

After forming an Action Group we at least have had some success, the threat of eviction seems to have been postponed meantime. A couple, both suffering from heart trouble, have received indication of being rehoused. In fact, we have all had some kind of offer except the three with the lowest tenancy. People with little or no tenancy can walk into the scheme from houses that have had to be demolished, yet could be offered the houses in Mossbank & Bellahouston, etc. made available for decanting purposes since these people know they have to settle in another district.

We feel that the public should know the blockages that arise & how difficult it is to get guidance. What has happened to us could happen again, somewhere else. 3

# Garscadden Party Games

ALL OF A SUDDEN THE POLITICIANS ARE INTERESTED IN 'GARSCADDEN'. THE PEOPLE OF YOKER, KNIGHTSWOOD, TEMPLE DRUMCHAPEL (Cleddans, Summerhill, Blairdardie & Drumry) are being courted for their vote.

After receiving small measure for years, the accent is on the land of promises from politicians who ooze concern for bad housing, unemployment & low wages, lack of amenities, inadequate transport services & the stresses of living in schemes in Drumchapel, where women in particular have "perimeter scheme nerves" & are on valium.

How cynical can you get? Especially coming from LABOUR & their whizzkid candidate Donald Dewar:



Labour are winning the economic battle. The commitment to the less fortunate, to the under-privileged and the disadvantaged is still there. There is the instinctive detestation of cant, hypocrisy and privilege. The Labour Party still stands and fights for civilised standards and a high social wage.

Fine words, but HOW do people come to be "disadvantaged" & considering periods of Labour rule, why are people still "less fortunate" or "under-privileged". To put it bluntly, your "instinctive detestation" can't be so strong as you proclaim. After all, schemes such as Drumchapel were erected under a Labour Government in the post WW II period & successive Labour councils have intensified the plight of people forced to live on the 'bread-line' in their concern to prop up an exploitative system.

Most people are pretty clear about the Tories, the party of Big Business & their sausage-machine of a candidate, Lawson presents no alternative for working people.

But the SNP are a different story. Their 'radical' candidate Keith Bovey, Byres Rd. lawyer, adopts an opportunist posture by shedding crocodile tears at the quality of life in much of Garscadden constituency & promising better things to come with 'Scotland's oil'.

No bover! All you do is vote SNP & hey presto, Independence will sort out all these nasty 'social problems'. BUT, 'independence'



"The SNP aim of independence does not remain a secret but is proclaimed from the rooftops. The immediate need of this constituency is to staunch the flow of jobs out of it. That is why I see the main issue as that of unemployment."

"When I win I will claim my victory as a vote for the only party which has stood up for the right to work," he said.

for who? For Scottish businessmen like Hugh Fraser & his Arnotts store in Drumchapel. For local Authorities to carry on as before, under a change of flag and anthem.

But what about the 'Right to Work', a demand shared with Sammy Barr of the Communist Party & Peter Porteous of the Socialist Workers Party. Unless it is a purely cynical 'demand', this can only serve to bolster the System of production for profit & bureaucratic manipulation. Even if it could concede a demand like this it wouldn't represent an advance for working people - the root of the problem lies with the State itself & not 'full employment'.

Real independence can only be to take power away from Authorities.

## ELECTION FEVER

Medical opinion has diagnosed that this is not a serious ailment, confined to a small section of the population who are Party to ideas about exercising political power over working people who produce the wealth & carry out the orders.

The Depressants LAB/CON/LIB/SNP/SLP/SWP/CP/NF/WRP/IMG, etc., etc. - there are 57 varieties in all - are not advised for they contain a GOVERNMENT

HEALTH HAZARD & sap independent will.

# vote masochist

DON'T VOTE - IT ONLY ENCOURAGES THEM sums up what the GPP collective think about elections.

If you vote in a parliamentary or local election you are doing the system a favour - even if its a vote for a 'fringe' party such as the NF (Nazis) or SWP & Socialist Unity (Marxist). Of course 'fringe' parties don't see their road to political power through the ballot box, but rather through the manipulation of the struggles of working people for their own ends.

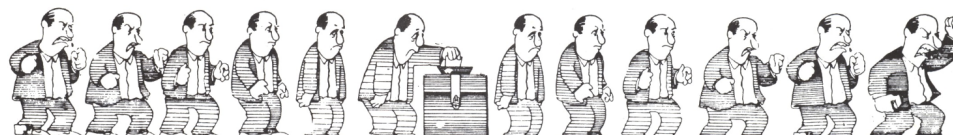
The more 'fringe' candidates that stand the more the System likes it since the appearance is produced that 'our' benign democracy is tolerant of all shades of opinion. It's rather like T.V.'s "Open Door" giving the appearance of 'Balance'.

However, the alternative isn't pure apathy. While the INDIRECT democracy preferred by the Parties is a farce, amounting to little more than tooting for votes every few years, DIRECT democracy would represent an alternative where power wasn't surrendered to a faceless bureaucracy. This alternative, which stands in contradiction to the idea of the State, means power flows from the bottom upward with a socialism that is equated with everybody making decisions not a strengthened State machine.

On top of the Garscadden & Hamilton by-elections, there is also the question of the May Regional Elections to that Strathclyde bureaucracy. Would you buy a used car or bagful of promises from the Rogues Gallery responsible for matters such as education & planning - to vote for any of them would be plain MASOCHISM!



SHAW, GIFFREY M. (21) GIFFREY, M. (22) GIFFREY, M. (23) GIFFREY, M. (24) GIFFREY, M. (25) GIFFREY, M. (26) GIFFREY, M. (27) GIFFREY, M. (28) GIFFREY, M. (29) GIFFREY, M. (30)





# BARLINNIE SPECIAL UNIT

## A BREAKTHROUGH IN HUMAN AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

An article by the national prisoners' movement PROP

The Special Unit was set up in 1973, in a bid to stop the escalating violence in Scottish prisons. Since then there has not been one instance of violence between staff and prisoners in the unit.

Despite this the press and the Home Office have united in trying to discredit the Special Unit.

In an attempt to redress the balance we print below an abbreviated version of the prisoners' side of the story.

All staff in the Unit are volunteers, and a weekly Community Meeting is where decisions are made. When necessary, additional meetings are called. Everyone has a vote, and a prisoner's vote carries as much weight as a prison officer's. These Community Meetings are the foundation on which the Unit rests.

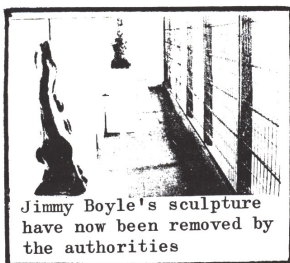
It was at such a meeting that, in the first months of the Unit's existence, the prisoners' vote to remove the door to the punishment cell was finally carried against considerable opposition from a majority of the staff. It was that decision that marked the breakthrough in the early development of the Unit. To this day, the punishment cell has not been used.

Jimmy Boyle is one of the reasons the Special Unit was set up. At the end of 1967, he was sentenced to life with a minimum of 15 years. When, together with four other prisoners, he entered the Unit in 1973, he had already received a further 6 years for 'assaults' on prison staff and was at the time awaiting trial for the 'attempted murder' of 6 officers. That charge was finally dropped but 6 more years for 'assault' brought his total since entering prison to 12.

Jimmy Boyle. Once dubbed 'Scotland's most violent man', went to the Special Unit from the 'cages' at Inverness.

The following is a description of the 'cages' by a prisoner who spent several months there:  
"Inverness Prison: There are six cells in this Punishment wing. Five of them have cage fronts inside and the prisoner enters the ordinary cell with concrete walls and steel lined door then is put inside a cage

within this cell. Food is put to the prisoner through a two and a half inch gap at the bottom of the cage. The prisoner in order to eat has to sit on the floor and put the meals on his knees or eat straight from the concrete floor. There is no furniture except for a lidless chamber pot. Prisoners are searched three times per day. THREE TIMES, and body searches take place at all times. One book per week is given to the prisoner in these cages. There is a small window outside the caged area and this has double framework with opaque glass and a heavy grilled wire mesh over it so that its difficult to tell what time of day it is, day or night.



Jimmy Boyle's sculpture have now been removed by the authorities

"The sixth cell is called the Silent Cell, and this is a concrete cell within a concrete cell, which means that one has to enter two sets of walls and two heavy doors to get into it. Once in there the prisoner hears nothing for it is what its name says Silent Cell. Prisoners lie in these for any amount of time with no toilet facilities whatsoever. The cell is so silent that a constant ringing in the ears is there.

"If and when given exercise prisoners are taken to the rooftop and allowed to walk up and down a few paces as this is where the exercise yard is. There is a wall on top of the roof covered with heavy barbed wire to stop the prisoner climbing up and jumping off.

If during the two month period he gets in any trouble then he is kept for another two months. The six months maximum is utter rubbish as prisoners have been there from periods up to 22 months."

Treated like a wild animal, Jimmy Boyle naturally responded like a wild animal and in the middle of December, after seeing a fellow prisoner lying beaten and bleeding inside an adjoining 'cage', he determined that if there were to be any

protest 'the emphasis should be on doing as much damage to the enemy as possible. Earlier that month, I had managed to pick up the heel plate of a boot which I had sharpened and when my cage was searched that night I hid it in my mouth as I did whenever searches were given'. It was as a result of that incident that Jimmy Boyle was charged with the 'attempted murder' of 6 prison officers. No one, of course, was charged with his attempted murder though he remained unconscious for almost two weeks.

Jimmy Boyle's account of his years in Scotland's jails is an unbroken record of the brutalisation - of officers as well as men - inherent in every repressive penal system. Today, the 'brute' that was Jimmy Boyle has turned out to be, not only a sculptor of outstanding ability, but a man, capable like any other healthy human being, of love and affection. When treated like a human being, the 'wild animal' has turned out to be human after all.

It is not surprising that the Prison Department is determined to end the Special Unit experiment. At the very least, its outstanding success challenges the entire repressive penal system. Each of the three men to date released from the Special Unit has now been out of prison for the longest period of his adult life.

To say that the Prison Department 'wants' violence, any more than it 'wants' the second highest prison population in Europe (West Germany heads the league) would be too crude. What it wants is a docile, unthinking prison population which will not dare question what it does in the name of 'authority'.

The Special Unit has produced the opposite. By enabling men to take responsibility for their thinking and actions into their own hands, it has transformed them into socially responsible human beings.

A responsible thinking man, prisoner or non-prisoner, is a greater danger to class privilege than ten angry young men with guns - for it does not take him long to understand that prison exists to defend class privilege. That is its basic purpose.

### UNIT STAFF GIVE A LEAD

But there is another equally worrying aspect for the Prison Dept. It is not only prisoners who have begun to think for themselves. Prison Officers have also learnt from the experiment. The Unit staff



# ROCKING THE BOAT

an occasional series & FORUM.

The 'S.S. Empire Collins' steamed up the river Clyde bound for Bowling returning from Texas where sirens, horns & whistles had sounded in unison with the end of WW II & Japanese capitulation. Half of the cargo was to be discharged at Bowling & half at Liverpool. I was 5th engineer on board & this was my first trip (apart from Clyde coast steamers on holidays). However, I was glad to be returning home for I knew that on sailing into any home port you could terminate your contract with the ship's company. I was anxious to see my wife of 18 months & child, to leave the filthy mess of the engine room & a crew I felt I had little in common with.

I had become an avowed anarchist about 6 months after I had been married. This coloured my relationship with the crew. The other engineers disliked my going aft where the crew's quarters were & a number of the crew were suspect of me because I was classified as an engineer officer. I was between the devil & the deep blue sea so to speak. Perhaps my philosophy was too much misconstrued & misinterpreted. However, a fistful of practice is often much better than a bagful of theory. I was to get an opportunity to illustrate in practice what I meant to convey in controversy.

On the way up to Bowling I was going on watch. After about 15 minutes in the engine room the greaser still hadn't turned up. He knew I wouldn't reprimand him & was trying to take advantage of the situation. I went up the ladder & went to his quarters. I shook him, he looked at me & said; "Oh give me peace will you? I'll be down shortly. Listen you stupid bastard, I may be anti-militarist, but I'm not a pacifist", I pointed to him & continued, "if your'e not down in 10 minutes I'll be back up here, I won't log you, I'll fuckin' balls you, that's for sure". As I was descending down the engine room I heard some of the other greasers & firemen shouting at him.

Ten minutes had passed. I was just about to go up when I saw him coming down. Mid-way through the watch I heard him call out to the firemen, "want any tea Red?". "Yeah Joe". "What about you fiver in a more subdued voice. The earlier unpalatable incident seemed on the verge of being forgotten. 6

Meantime I made a check on the boilers, pumps, auxiliary & main engines, taking temperatures & a general account for the log book. He brought down the tea & said, "sorry about earlier on fiver".

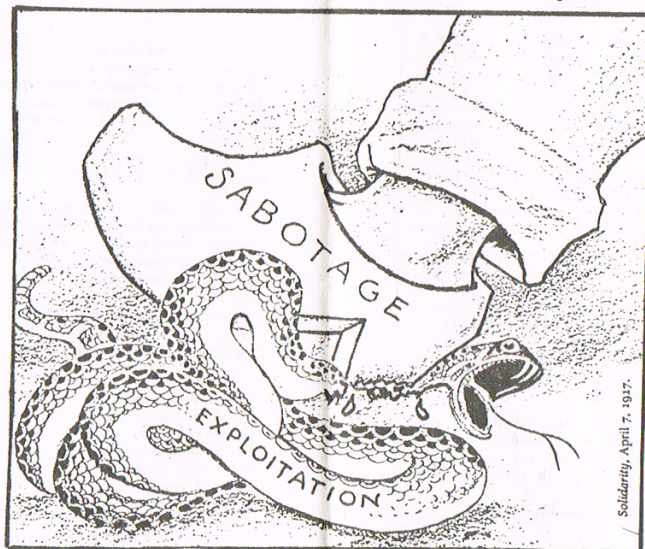
"It's O.K., it's dead now", I replied. Maybe 'Red' had said something to him I thought. Just then, the 2nd & 4th engineers came down & we began to prepare to pull into Bowling in 1/2 an hour. When the final movement of slow astern had finished with engines rung down from the bridge, I felt elated.

## ACTION

Whilst I was preparing to go ashore the 2nd engineer came to my cabin. "I just came to remind you that this is your night aboard" (an engineer had to be on board at all times for insurance purposes). "However, as we'll be sailing for Liverpool tomorrow afternoon if you will stay aboard today I'll let you get home after your next watch & you won't have to come back aboard until it's time to sail, about 2pm. When we discharge at Liverpool like myself & many others I'm sure you'll be finishing up with this filthy 'rig' - "The time can't come quick enough" I replied. I thought to myself. I could have said, "go and throw yourself in the river, I'm going home now" but it would have raised too many complications.

On my next watch (the 4-8pm watch) I had trouble with the boiler feed pumps: they weren't pumping the water from the feed tank to the boilers. It was the greaser who noticed this just about 1/2 an hour before the completion of our watch. I was attending to a bilge pump at the time; packing a gland when he called out to me, "Fiver! the hotwell is overflowing. I went round to check. The feed pump was slowing down so I opened up the steam valve a little more & checked the exhaust valve, but to no avail. The pump was hot so I changed over to the other feed pump. The hot well stopped overflowing & the water was now pumping into the boilers. But within about 15 minutes the hot well started to overflow again. "What's the time Joe", I asked the greaser. "Leaving 7.30", he replied. "Shoot up top will you and see if the 4th has come aboard yet". Whilst he was away I changed over to the first pump again & opened up the extra

feed valve to allow cold water into the hotwell, although it was still overflowing. The pump began and the hotwell stopped overflowing. The 4th engineer hadn't come aboard yet & it was already 7.50. Thoughts started racing through my mind. I remembered some 3 months ago there had been similar trouble with the feed pumps. There was only a shore donkeyman and myself aboard with the engine room personnel. The chief engineer was in a pub in Sandyford St. not far from the dock at Yorkhill. Although I had completed a 5 years apprenticeship & had now been a journeyman for about 4 months I still lacked experience concerning the run of an engine room.



The donkeyman was near by & said, "what's the matter son", when he saw me changing over the pumps. I called out to him, "the well's overflowing. He came over, felt the cover of the pumps' delivery valve & said, "Christ that's hot, hot enough to fry an egg". Open that valve son will you? Sorry, I'll open it, it's my job really". In a few minutes the overflowing stopped and the pump started normally. He explained to me, "there was too much back pressure on the pump causing it to slow down & heat up. I have relieved the pressure allowing it to pass into the auxiliary condenser. By the

way son, when a shore donkeyman is on watch the engineer should not interfere with his work. If a donkeyman is dubious about anything and sends for the engineer that's a different matter".

Remembering this incident and thoughts I had about it I decided to disregard my knowledge of it. Thoughts were still racing through my mind: a certificated engineer, a chief or 2nd engineer should be on board at all times. But no, they were taking advantage of my inexperience. To hell, now is the time for some individual DIRECT ACTION. So I pretended ignorance. I told the greasers & firemen I couldn't cope with the

they said, "Maybe you had better come with us". "Why", I said (but suspecting what was going to be said). "Let's tell you at the bar" - the firemen invited me to join him & bought a round. Well, Bob: "The skipper & the chief officer are boiling about what happened last night. They couldn't get their cargo pumped ashore; they had to use candles & couldn't get any substantial cooking done. The ship will be delayed another day here in Bowling". "Good", I said tersely. Colin, the fireman being an old member of the Independent Labour Party would know exactly what I meant without need for elaboration. He had some knowledge of the anarchist movement in Spain but thought the situation unique

because of its historical background & traditions. He thought that anarchism could not pertain in highly industrialised countries where everything was too centralised until the working class came through some evolutionary & transitional period. He had elitist views: the working class had to be led & taught by some intellectual minority. However, I did not reveal that what I had done was on purpose. He was too loose mouthed like many others when he imbibed in John Barleycorn.

## EFFECTIVE

Other rounds followed & the previous evening was forgotten as we discussed economics & politics. Ironically enough he seemed to realise that economics was of primary importance but when adopting methods of struggle his emphasis was on politics. His attitude was reminiscent of Marx who maintained that religion, philosophy, art, jurisprudence, politics, morality, etc., were mere reflections in men's minds of the economic structure of society. But when formulating revolutionary principles put more emphasis on the reflection rather than on the real substance, economic power. I tried to convey to him that it wasn't merely the exploitation of the working class that was the source of all our problems but the fact that exploitation was able to exist because it was sanctioned by law. Political power, therefore had to be destroyed along with capitalism by the economic strength of an organised working class. State power grew up with class society and had to be destroyed along with it.

However, it was a case of convincing a man against his own will & we sauntered down to the shop still talking on a similar plane. But I called our conversation to a halt, reluctantly, because the others were following behind us obviously talking about the night before. Suddenly I said, "Colin, linger and join the others behind will you?" "Well, listen, these guys behind you are all for you; they identify themselves with you. They know you aren't an officer or don't want to be." "O.K., O.K., but I still want to go on board myself; leave them out of it will you?"

"Go back Colin and thanks". We parted without any further remarks.

I slightly staggered up the gangway knowing several eyes were penetrated upon me. I saw several and yet saw no one. I made my way to my cabin & plonked myself on top of my bunk. Within minutes there were knocks on the door, "Come in". It was the 2nd engineer. "What happened to you?" "As if you don't know" I said, "I was left holding the baby for you shower of bastards but the baby wasn't human. It was a grotesque kind of thing so I abandoned it. Get the point?"

"You'll get the point when the skipper comes down. Oh, do me a favour won't you? Get wet in the river". The skipper & the chief officer came in just as the 2nd engineer departed.

"We want an explanation for your conduct last night mister". It was the master of the ship talking. "Why the hell don't you ask your own kind? the chief engineer, the 2nd engineer & the 4th who like yourself seem to have the company's interest at heart." "Don't bother me. I could jail you for this," he said. "Balls", I replied & turned my back on him.

I was finally given a bad discharge. On my discharge it was recorded: ability good, conduct good. Any seamen knows that this is a bad discharge for an engineer officer. So, let me suffice to say that the moral of it is that it illustrates that a junior engineer under peculiar circumstances can have such economic power to hold a capitalist concern to ransom by direct action. This was individual action demonstrating the power of the working class has at its disposal if only it could discern it.

More glaring examples at the present time are of course the power station workers whereby a few handfuls of workers can be more effective by taking direct action than by protracted negotiations through their trade union officials.

This of course is another story which may require elaboration for those who still cannot see the wood for the trees. Think about it.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE

may have been exceptional men, both personally and in their understanding of human relations and behaviour - but ideas have a habit of spreading, particularly when they come from within a group.

Under the regular prison regime, a socially responsible prison officer must remain the exception. The very nature of his job demands that he must - at best - put human and social responsibility on one side, for his non-working hours. In short, the job demands that he behaves like an animal.

The exceptional officer is aware of this and tries to find ways to guard against it, like the officer who had taken a clerical job in the administration block of a large security prison. He'd formerly worked at an open prison and said that locking men up and giving them orders was not for him. At the suggestion that other officers might have something to learn from the Special Unit experiment, he smiled, "Others? 98%, you mean!"

#### SOLIDARITY

Essential to the maintenance of the class system which prison exists to defend is a whole body of ideas which are designed to keep working people fighting one against the other. One of the most basic of these is the myth of an 'unchangeable human nature', by implication violent and competitive.

The Special Unit, like nothing else before it in our country's history, has shattered the myth, and so provided a further step to continued social and human development. But it has been able to do so, and its outstanding success achieved, only through the closest co-operation and mutual support of the officers and men.

It is the determination of the Prison Department to smash this unity which lies behind its campaign to eliminate the experiment.

There are indeed many thugs in prison. The systematic beating of the Hull prisoners as they came down from the roof of the jail can leave us in no doubt as to who they are. The Special Unit, on the contrary, has united prison officers and prisoners in a common struggle towards a better, and a happier future - a future in which there will be neither thugs nor 'wild animals' and in which prison will have no part, where men will be united and not divided, and where all will work for the benefit of all, and not for the greed and profit of a few.

It is in the interest of all those concerned to help create that better and happier future to rise in defence of the Special Unit and in support of the officers and men battling for its survival. Failure to do so is to take the side of the thugs.

Let us learn from the officers and prisoners in the Special Unit and take responsibility for the future - our future - into our own hands.

## Government breaks law

### anarchy in the streets

REMEMBER all those Green Goddesses hurtling fearlessly through Glasgow streets to fight fires when the firemen were holding the country to ransom? Well, the government's action in using those troops was - wait for it - illegal - and that's official.

The Ministry of Defence has admitted that the use of troops was contrary to the Queen's Regulations, the set of rules which governs the command and administration of the armed forces.

Broadly speaking the army can be called out of barracks in three instances - to assist the police in tackling serious public disorder or terrorism, To assist in dealing with natural disasters and to maintain supplies and services in an industrial dispute. More precisely in cases of the last kind the government has two options. Either it declares a state of emergency and rules by Order in Council or it may authorise the use of troops in work which is temporary, urgent and of national importance. But, say the Regulations, this may only happen "where there is no proclamation of emergency and the emergency is limited and local".

Clearly the firemen's strike was not 'limited and local' since it was a national stoppage. The use of troops was not therefore covered by the Regulations as it was during the Glasgow firemen's strike in 1973 and the Glasgow dustcart drivers' strike in 1975, which were both limited and local to the Glasgow area. In both those instances the use of troops was technically OK.

This illegality was first uncovered by State Research, a group

of London based journalists investigating the security forces - police, army, secret service - in this country and it now seems clear that the words 'limited and local' will be dropped from the regulations as soon as possible. If you don't like the rules, you can always change them.

(State Research, 9 Poland St, London W1 publishes a regular bulletin, annual sub - £3 - invaluable)

## Flashpoint

IN THE SPACE OF LITTLE OVER 7 WEEKS (about the time it takes from one GPP to another) in May/June 1968, French society was turned upside down as revolt spread in an uncontrolled fashion.

From student protests in schools & Universities, a movement developed, spreading like wildfire amongst different sections of the working population. Such was the spontaneous character of the wholesale questioning of hierarchial & exploitative

society, that the traditional Left were left far behind as production & the patterns of everyday life were disrupted by freedom.

Significantly, Communist Party militants, especially the leadership were in the vanguard trying to PREVENT the movement growing to a revolutionary situation, to this effect they denounced anarchists such as Cohn-Bendit for 'adventurism' & channelled dissent into demands for economic gain.

Of course, 'it' didn't happen, the State survived & reasserted itself. However, the POSSIBILITY of people controlling their own lives was thrown into focus as the decisive characteristic of changing society.

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## Mayday : Origins

MAY 1 1886 saw 340,000 workers striking all over the United States demanding an 8-hour day.

In Chicago alone, 80,000 came out and here a number of anarchist militants agitated inside the labour movement.

The following Monday, the police fired on strikers at the McCormick Harvester works and six workers were killed.

The next day a protest meeting was broken up by the police. In the ensuing melee, a bomb was thrown at the police, killing one outright and fatally wounding seven others.

Evidence came to light later that the bomb had been thrown by a police agent.

The bosses, however, used this incident to victimise leading working class militants and attempt to break the labour movement.

After a farcical trial, with a jury made up of businessmen, their clerks, and a relative of a dead policeman, four anarchists were hanged, another committing suicide before sentence could be passed.

In 1888, the American Federation of Labour continued the 8-hour day movement with May 1 as a day of action.

The Paris conference of the Second International in 1890 fixed Mayday as an international day of solidarity for the 8-hour day.

That year, demonstrations took place all over Europe and America.

Ninety years after the Chicago demonstration, where we murdered five anarchist workers

is conveniently forgotten.

Just another institution, just another great yawn.

The United Kingdom finally follows the example of other governments of East and West, and plans to make Mayday into a public holiday.

It will not necessarily be on Mayday itself, but a Monday near it; so the working week is disrupted as little as possible.

In Moscow every year, hundreds of tanks and ballistic missiles are paraded through the streets to demonstrate the might of Russian imperialism and the power of the state bureaucracy over the workers and peasants of the USSR.

In many countries of the West, Mayday has become just another public holiday.

Trade union bureaucrats and the social democrats make the usual empty and meaningless speeches about 'socialism', while the revolutionary origins of Mayday and internationalism, is now just a sentimental ritual to disguise the betrayals of the union leaders and the social-democratic and Stalinist parties.

What is important about Mayday is that 'once upon a time' there was the show of strength by workers on an international level.

This should be remembered in the years ahead, as we fight to resist the ruling class offensive and the co-optation of working class initiatives by union bureaucrats.

Anarchist Worker,  
May 1976

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

- are vulnerable or have or might reasonably be expected to have living with them people who are vulnerable eg: because of old age, mental illness or handicap, physical disability etc.

Women who are pregnant are specifically identified as being in priority need. There is power for the categories to be amended by Ministerial order.

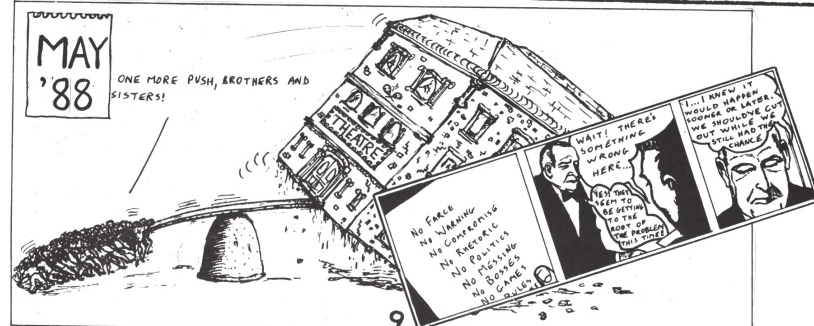
Local authority duties. Sections 3 and 4 describe the local authorities main duties towards the homeless.

If you apply to a local authority for assistance their first duty is to make enquiries as to whether you are homeless and in priority need - then they will make enquiries as to whether you became homeless intentionally and/or whether you have a 'local connection' with the notified authority or another.

- You become homeless intentionally by deliberately doing or failing to do something which could have kept you in your accommodation. A battered woman however, is never considered as intentionally homeless.
- You have a local connection with an area if you are normally resident there out of choice; or employed in it; have family associations there; or any other special circumstances. Again there are exceptions in the case of battered women.

Apart from enquiries the local authority housing department is under a duty to provide accommodation for those in need. If you fall into a priority group you are entitled to accommodation immediately even if the enquiries aren't completed (though of course they can make a charge for it.) If the authority discover you became homeless intentionally their duty ceases but they should allow you time to find other

CONTINUED PAGE ELEVEN





After the Scottish Council for Civil Liberty's conference on Children's Rights, the question that remains not satisfactorily answered is "What do we do about it now?" Several people expressed the need to have a nucleus, round which opinion could coalesce and grow, & the SCCL offered their help & publicity (address p.12). In the meantime I offer 3 concrete, more short-term proposals which we could be putting into operation now.

First, PRIVATE EYE should be put into all school libraries and made readily available to pupils. The official school history books and the current affairs publications give such a hygienic, spotless picture of the conduct of world affairs that pupils are entirely misled about the nature of our democracy & other governments. They are taken in by the incantation of "My Lord Mayor, Your Majesty, Your Royal Highness, Your Excellencies, Your Graces, My Lords, Ladies & Gentlemen...". And there's Callaghan, in the midst of it, enjoying the show and no more representing our interests than a trade union leader, translated to the House of Lords representing interests of the rank & file members. Pupils, listening to the roll of drums, are persuaded into believing that their highnesses are cast in a higher mould than the rest of us, that their excellencies are excellent & that the Right Honourables are different from the rest of us ordinary sinners.

When Labour came to power in 1945 a forecaster might have risked the prophecy that all this tomfoolery might have disappeared, dissolved in an amused smile at the Barons, Knights of the Thistle, OBE, KCB, etc., etc.. He might have thought that by now these feudal revels would have ended, that people would no longer be taken in by getting extra letters written before or after their names. When the red-letter days of the new year honours & birthday honours come round, I look at the faces pictured in the papers & try and read what is behind these be-honoured eyes. Able, distinguished, estimable people many of them - what made them fall for this charade & think it is for real? I try and make up new honours like the Dames of the Footstool or the Officers of the Dandelion, but I cannot compete with the Garter & the Bath and the Royal Victorian Order, Members (MVO), 4th class. I would have thought the intention was so glaringly obvious that few people would fall for it. "Look here, chaps. If you work hard and not cause us any trouble, we'll give you an honour. What about an MVO (4th class)?"

I've been surprised at how many people, whom I would have expected to smile at this human comedy, have been lining up for an Honour. "I do not make the jokes," said G.K. Chesterton; "other people make the

## ARE TO GRIND

**R.F. MacKenzie, ex-Summerhill school, Aberdeen, libertarian educationist, with 3 demands for CHILDREN'S rights at SCHOOL plus an OPEN LETTER TO J. Milne, STUC.**

jokes. I just see them." We teachers must help the pupils to see the jokes. We should encourage them to smile tolerantly when the Duke of Edinburgh appears on the telly bededalled as lavishly as President Idi Amin. And one of the best ways of helping them to see the jokes is to let them read PRIVATE EYE.

But there's more than that. Would any serious educationist say that it is a bad thing to let the pupils know who own the shares, and who give out the contracts for municipal building, and to draw their attention to the coincidences when these groups coincide. Is it not part of Children's Rights to know the truth about some of the adults who administer our state?

SECONDLY, it would be appropriate that a campaign for Children's Rights should look into the nature of the Educational Institute of Scotland



(& of the other Scottish teacher's associations). It is one of the most reactionary groups in the country and it has a record second to none for stymying educational enquiry. I'm surprised that the STUC has been persuaded to regard it as a trade union in the usual sense of the term, since it has consistently opposed those who want to abolish the barbaric Scottish habit of flogging with a leather belt even the younger pupils, boys & girls, of our schools. James Milne, may I address this enquiry to you? The torture of the subjected has had a long & dishonourable history. It dates back beyond the lash of the taskmasters of the Pharaohs. It includes the records of the use of whips on American slaves and on mutinying Scottish soldiers. Whips were used in mental hospitals. Now they are everywhere prohibited in Scotland - except in the schools. And in the schools it is the children of working class parents who are most subjected to whipping. Is this not a matter of concern to the STUC? When I was at Summerhill the EIS not only supported the retention of corporal punishment but supported those who refused to keep records of its use. It's up to you, James Milne. Why don't you ask Pollok if his institute is still opposed to the keeping of records? As long as the STUC avoid this issue, so long will the flogging of our children continue. The STUC are, in fact, conniving at the pain & the degradation which their children have to endure.

The THIRD proposal I'd make is that the system of external examinations in schools should be abolished. It is this, more than anything else, that forces teachers into belting. The curriculum is dominated by the examinations. If a topic is unlikely to appear as an examination question, it is unlikely to appear in the curriculum. Teachers are loaded with the impossible job of pushing useless information into unwilling heads, and when energetic, healthy, independent-minded youngsters rebel, they are brought to heel with physical punishment. It's the old story which I'd thought the STUC would have read & studied long ago.. You get marks for saying the right things, for having memorised the establishment want you to memorise, and you are penalised for any independence of outlook. Scotland is a much more authoritarian country even than England, and the authoritarianism is imposed by the richly-endowed Palace of Examinations in Edinburgh. Is the STUC so bemused by the establishment propaganda that it cannot analyse the nature of our educational system? If the teachers were set free from the tyranny of the external examinations (the O grades & the Highers) they have

the ingenuity & the imagination to revolutionise Scottish society within one generation.

R F MacKenzie

# GPP

## EDITORIAL

Unlike other 'radical' papers, the GPP has no pretensions to provide the 'public' with a new set of aspiring journalists.

Our ideal is for people in different situations: kids, factory workers, claimants, women at home, pensioners, public service workers & others to write their own stories.

In this way power could effectively flow back to the people.

Knowledge is power and a paper assembled from everyday struggles against authority & exploitation would serve as a positive vehicle for those fighting back.

This could also happen with distribution. People can take bundles and flog them at work or in the street & pubs or amongst friends. Commission of 2p a copy (more as sales grow) could indirectly aid the resources of a community or supplement low

CORRESPONDENCE & LETTERS:  
GPP, ground floor r.,  
146 Holland St., Glasgow G2.  
TELEPHONE enquiries to 946-3676.

wages or S.S. pittance hand-outs.

This is our aim - the GPP, even if it was a 'success', would be a contradiction if it turned out to be yet another select group of journalists & commentators producing a commodity for passive consumption.

Let's be hearing from you!  
Help the ideal become a reality  
& abolish the 'contradiction'.  
Fight to (REALLY) live!

80, Sunnyside Dr., Blairdardie.  
Dear sir,

It's nice to see someone asking some piercing questions about some of the social problems & it's about time. I have encl. 4 poems about Glasgow & Glasgow's effects on its citizens which I hope you will find interesting. (HERE IS 1 OF THEM -GPP coll.)

A Passenger on the 5.46  
A shiny pointed toe is tapping  
In time with a personal song  
Train provides the beat  
And Vogue provides the dream  
Same train, same dream  
night upon night  
Banishes the ten miles of drear

La restaurant, a moustachio'd  
White Jacket  
Smiles condescendingly at the bill  
- which has no Chance  
Pays, & whisks you into a virginal  
Chevvy

Pushing eighty he lights a casual  
cigarette  
Unearthly hotel looms austerely in  
the distance  
He steers with his little finger &  
the Chev hisses to a halt.  
Gliding round, he swings the fat  
door wide  
And as you get out your feet don't  
touch the ground  
Because fifty people want to get  
home in time for 'Garnock Way'

Out of my window I see grey  
A grey so dazzling, so inspiring  
Sometimes  
And other times, simply grey  
But always I can see it, feel it,  
breathe it  
It's mine, it's there  
And it's a start  
ALAN CAMERON

THANKS, Stephen Rainham  
of Irvine for enquiry  
but GPP can't employ  
journalists( see above)

158 King's Park Ave., G.44.  
Dear Charlie & GPP,

STOPP(Society of Teachers opposed to physical punishment in Scotland) is a society formed & led by teachers whose aim is to stop Scotland - or, to be more exact, their fellow-Scottish teachers - from belting the living daylight out of school kids. Although our inaugural meeting was well attended, we in STOPP SCOTLAND are under no illusions as to the difficulty of the task we set ourselves...So many of our colleagues in the profession steadfastly maintain that the belt is only used as "a last resort", a claim which is surely impossible to reconcile with the undoubted fact that being on the receiving end of the tawse is still in the last 1/4 of the 20c. the almost universal experience of Scottish school-children. IAN BAYNE.  
(See p.10, this letter has been heavily edited for reasons of space)



CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

accommodation. If you have no local connection they can arrange a transfer of responsibility with an appropriate authority where you have such a connection. The local authority's duty to those not in priority need is to provide advice and assistance to help you secure accommodation.

You could be fined for deliberately giving false information under the Act.

By Section 8 the local authority is under a duty to give written reasons for their decisions.

Thanks to 'Community Action' for our info. THE END

## Bookshop

OVER a dozen people met last week to discuss ideas and prospects for a bookshop in Glasgow, an alternative to Smith's, Menzies, Holmes etc and the short sighted left group bookshops, somewhere to get the books and papers you can't get elsewhere, somewhere to drop into and meet people.

It's certainly not the first time such an idea has been discussed and the usual problems were apparent - premises / money / people. All more than welcome - see ads.

NEXT MEETING; Wednesday, 12 April, 7.30, at  
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APRIL

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Fred Schepers's

THE DEATH'S PLAYGROUND (aa) +  
Rick Lester's THE RITZ (x).

Mon 10th - Sat 15th @ 6.00/8.30:

Vittorio Gassman in

THE FEMME SCIENT (x).

Mon 17th - Wed 19th @ 6.00/8.30:

Werner Fassbinder's

THE FOX AND HIS FRIENDS (x).

Thur 20th - Sat 22nd @ 6.00/8.30:

Eric Rohmer's

THE MARCH OF THE CLOVERS (x).

Mon 24th, CHINESE TRILOGY, (1) @

6.00/8.30: Dance-drama

RED DETACHMENT OF WOMEN

Tues 25th, CHINESE TRILOGY, (2) @

6.00/8.30: A 'revolutionary' Pe-

king opera TAKING TIGER

MOUNTAIN BY STRATEGY.

Wed 26th, CHINESE TRILOGY, (3) @

6.00/8.30: Dance-drama

THE WHITE-HAIRED GIRL.

Thur 27th - Sat 29th @ 6.00/8.30:

The Bolshoi Ballet, CINDERELLA (u)

Late Night films @ 11.00:

Fri 7th, George Romero's

NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD (x)

Sat 8th, Rod Steiger in

INNOCENTS WITH DIRTY HANDS (aa)

Fri 14th, Al Pacino in

DOG DAY AFTERNOON (x)

Sat 15th, George Segal in

CALIFORNIA SPLIT (x)

Fri 21st, Robert Redford in

THE GREAT GATSBY (a)

Sat 22nd, Robert Aberdeen in

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE BATHS (x)

Fri 28th, Fassbinder's THE BITTER

TEARS OF PETHA VON KANT (x)

Sat 29th, Brian De Palma's

PHANTOM OF THE PARADISE (aa).



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GLASGOW WOMENS CENTRE,  
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refuge etc. 221 1177  
57 MILLER ST., G1.

V.D. INFORMATION SERVICE  
Telephone 429 5976 (24hrs)

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Ave., G.52 or tel.  
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FRIENDS OF THE EARTH:  
c/o Neil and Hillary,  
Stamper, 54 Carnarvon St.  
Telephone 332 6295.

SCI-FI FAN GROUP: meets  
Thursday at 8.30 in the  
lounge of Wintressgills,  
in St. Western Rd.



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ASSOCIATION: organising  
to achieve an anarchist  
alternative to the auth-  
oritarian left. They meet  
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